

Message Text

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INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE 4206

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170895

FOLLOWING REPEATS STATE 170895 ACTION USUN NEW YORK JULY 22ND

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170895

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 170895 ACTION CINCPACREP GUAM INFO
GENEVA DOD JCS CINCPAC 20 JULY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170895

E.O. 12652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: REPATRIATES

REF: VIENTIANE 4815; CINCPACREP MARIANAS 190936Z JULY 1975
CINCPACREP MARIANAS 191630Z JUL 75
FOR COMNAV MARIANAS AND SENIOR CIVILIAN COORDINATOR

1. YOU SHOULD MEET WITH THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM IMMEDIATELY
AND CONVEY TO HIM THE FOLLOWING POINTS.
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2. WE UNDERSTAND AND SHARE HIS CONCERN OVER THE VIETNAMESE
REPATRIATES, PARTICULARLY THOSE THREATENING ACTS OF VIOLENCE
TO THEMSELVES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE ISLAND OF GUAM.
WE ENCOURAGE THE RETURN OF THESE VIETNAMESE TO THEIR

NATIVE LAND BUT THEIR ABILITY TO TRAVEL THERE LIES IN THE HANDS OF THE AUTHORITIES IN SAIGON. THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, FOLLOWING HIS MANDATE, HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES. WE MUST CONTINUE TO RELY ON HIS GOOD OFFICES AS HE IS MEETING REGULARLY WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES AND IS ALONE CAPABLE OF MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RETURN OF ALL REPEAT ALL THOSE WISHING TO GO TO VIETNAM. IN SHORT THE REPATRIATE'S RETURN INCLUDING THE MEANS AND TIMING OF THE RETURN IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OR PREROGATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

3. WE ARE ASKING THE UNHCR TO ARRANGE A MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT SOME POINT ACCEPTABLE TO THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES IN SAIGON BETWEEN THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AND THOSE OF THE REPATRIATES. IF THE UNHCR IS ABLE TO MAKE THESE ARRANGEMENTS WE EXPECT THE REPATRIATE REPRESENTATIVES TO PRESENT THEIR CASE DIRECTLY. EVEN IF A MEETING IS POSSIBLE, WE HAVE NO WAY OF ENSURING THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN NEGOTIATING THEIR RETURN. THE EXPENSES OF THEIR TRAVEL TO THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THEIR VOYAGE IF NECESSARY BACK TO U.S. TERRITORY WILL BE BORNE BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

4. THE REPATRIATES AND OTHER REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA ARE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. THE U.S. MARSHAL'S SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IS FULLY EQUIPPED TO ENSURE LAW AND ORDER AND PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THE CITIZENS OF GUAM AND SHALL SO DO. NO REPATRIATE WILL BE PERMITTED TO BREAK THE LAW. THE REPATRIATES ARE BEING WARNED IN THIS REGARD.

5. THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM DOES NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO PLACE REPATRIATES ON BOATS FOR VIETNAM. PLACING
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REPATRIATES ON BOATS WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES IS NOT A VIABLE UNDERTAKING. IT WOULD NOT SOLVE THE LARGER PROBLEM OF THE RETURN OF THOSE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO RISK SUCH A CHANCEY VOYAGE. FURTHERMORE WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE RETRIEVAL OF THOSE CRAFT WHICH HAVE PRIVATE OR DISPUTED OWNERSHIP. WE WOULD BE REMISS IN OUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE SAFETY OF THE REFUGEES AND THE CRAFT IF WE UNDERTOOK SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION.

6. WE APPRECIATE THE GOVERNOR'S CONCERN AND INTEREST IN THIS MATTER BUT SINCE HE IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO TAKE THE ACTIONS WHICH THE REFUGEES REQUEST, IT MAY BE ADVISABLE FOR HIM TO LIMIT HIS MEETINGS WITH THEM. YOU SHOULD ASSURE HIM HOWEVER THAT HE WILL HAVE OUR FULL COOPERATION

AS WELL AS THAT OF USG CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES
ON GUAM IN DEALING WITH THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM.

7. FOR SENIOR CIVILIAN COORDINATOR: YOU MAY INFORM
THE UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE WE ARE REQUESTING HIS HEAD-
QUARTERS ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING DIRECT AND EARLY TALKS
BETWEEN THE REPATRIATE REPRESENTATIVES AND THE VIETNAMESE
AUTHORITIES. HE SHOULD PASS THIS INFORMATION TO THE
REPATRIATES. HE SHOULD ALSO REMIND THEM THAT WHILE WE
ACT IN GOOD FAITH IN HELPING THEM TO RETURN TO VIETNAM,
WE WILL NOT COUNTENANCE ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY.

ANY ACTS OF A PERSONAL NATURE SUCH AS THOSE YOU DESCRIBED
IN YOUR MESSAGE ARE THEIR PREOGATIVE BUT WE CANNOT SEE HOW
THIS WILL HELP THEIR CAUSE. YOU MAY ALSO TELL THE UNHCR
REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE REPATRIATES ARE DAMAGING THEIR
POSITION IN THE EYES OF THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES BY
CONTINUED DEMONSTRATIONS AND THREATS THEREOF.

8. FOR GENEVA: YOU SHOULD CONVEY TO THE UNHCR URGENTLY
OUR WISH THAT HE ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN THE REPATRIATE
REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES AT ANY CON-
VENIENT POINT INCLUDING VIENTIANE. IF VIENTIANE IS
SELECTED, WE EXPECT UNHCR TO MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGE-
MENTS WITH THE LAO GOVERNMENT. WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET
EXPENSES IN THIS RESPECT. KISSINGER UNQUOTE

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